

## REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the Office Action mailed May 14, 2007 ("Office Action"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-37 as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0024109 to Sobkow et al. ("Sobkow") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,268 to Francis et al. ("Francis"), because Sobkow and Francis, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the recitations of the claims. Reasons supporting patentability of the claims are discussed in detail below.

### **Independent Claim 1 is Patentable**

Independent Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobkow in view of Francis. Office Action, page 2. In the rejection of Claim 1, the Office Action states:

Sobkow discloses a power supply system provides trunk line power to a segment of a network by concurrently operating multiple power supply devices with the power supply devices being configured **in a load sharing configuration** ... (*Emphasis added.*)

Office Action, page 2.

Thus, the Office Action appears to be referring to Fig. 2 of Sobkow, which shows power supply devices in a load sharing configuration. Applicants respectfully note that in this load sharing configuration, there are no "load segment outputs" as recited in Claim 1, as all of the outputs are connected in common. Thus, Sobkow does not disclose or suggest "load segment outputs of a power supply," as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action appears to rely on Francis as teaching modules equipped with LED indicators. See Office Action, pages 2-3. The status indicators described in Francis do not appear to be segment loading indicators for "load segment outputs of a power supply." As Sobkow does not disclose or suggest "load segment outputs of a power supply," the combination of Francis and Sobkow would not disclose or suggest "segment loading indicators," as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Sobkow and Francis, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest "a plurality of segment loading indicators configured to be electrically coupled to respective load segment outputs of a power supply, each of the segment loading indicators operative to

provide an indication of a loading of the associated load segment output," as recited in Claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Sobkow in view of Francis.

**Independent Claims 17, 26, 33 and 35 are Patentable**

Independent Claims 17, 26, 33 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobkow in view of Francis. Office Action, page 2. In the rejection of Claims 17, 26, 33 and 35, the Office Action states:

Sobkow discloses a power system including segments of the power supply system monitors the electrical voltage and current of each power supply as well as the total voltage and current being delivered to the segments. Francis discloses power supply front panel equipped with indicators indicating the status of the unit (figure 20). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have merely arranged panels and indicators and determined the desired values to monitor to quickly determine the system performance of segments of a power system. (*Emphasis added.*)

Office Action, page 4. As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully note that the Office Action incorrectly characterizes Sobkow as monitoring "the total voltage and current being delivered to the segments." Applicants respectfully submit that, as discussed above regarding Claim 1, Sobkow does not disclose load segments. Thus, as discussed above, Sobkow does not disclose or suggest monitoring segments of the output of any of the power supplies. Additionally, the status indicators of Francis do not disclose or suggest loading indicators as recited in the claims.

Further, Sobkow and Francis do not disclose additional recitations of several of the claims. For example, independent Claim 17 recites, in part, "a user interface positioned at the first panel of the housing" and "a loading indicator coupled to the power output and operative to provide a visual indication at the second panel of the housing of a loading of the power output." Sobkow and Francis, alone or in combination do not disclose or suggest providing an interface at a first panel and an indication, loading or otherwise, at a second panel. Moreover, the Office Action statement that "it would be obvious to...have merely rearranged the panels and indicators and determined the desired values to monitor" wholly disregards the fact that several of the structural recitations (e.g., loading indicators) of the claims are not disclosed or suggested in Sobkow and/or Francis. In this regard, absent disclosing or

suggesting the specific structures, a rearrangement of such structures is not even a tenable result. Thus, in addition to loading indicators not being disclosed or suggested by Sobkow and Francis, specific arrangements of devices including loading indication are necessarily not disclosed or suggested. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 17 is patentable over Sobkow in view of Francis.

Independent Claims 26, 33 and 35 include recitations similar to those discussed above regarding Claims 1 and 17 and are, therefore, patentable over Sobkow in view of Francis.

**The dependent claims are patentable**

Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-16, 18-25, 27-32, 34 and 36-37 are patentable at least by virtue of the patentability of various ones of independent Claims 1, 17, 26, 33 and 35 from which they depend. Consistent with Applicants' discussion above regarding segment loading indication, various ones of the dependent claims include recitations that identify additional features that are not disclosed by Sobkow and Francis, alone or in combination. In this regard, various ones of these dependent claims are separately patentable. For example, Claim 2 recites, in part, "at least one of the segment loading indicators is operative to provide an indication of a loading of the associated load segment output with respect to load rating of the associated load segment output." Applicants respectfully submit that Sobkow and Francis, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest using a segment loading indication, much less a segment loading indication associated with a segment load rating.

Regarding Claim 2, the Office Action admits that "[t]he references do not disclose wherein one of the segment loading indicators is operative to provide an indication of a loading of the associated load segment output with respect to load rating of the associated load segment output." Office Action, page 3. Applicants respectfully agree. The Office Action further states that "[i]t would have been obvious to...have modified the line segments to have the indicators indicating over current condition for the segment to identify a fault in the segment." Office Action, page 3. Applicants note that, in addition to incorrectly reading "over current condition" into the recitation of Claim 2, the Office Action incorrectly interprets Francis as disclosing indicators on each segment for identifying faulty segments. Applicants respectfully submit that Sobkow and Francis, alone or in combination do not

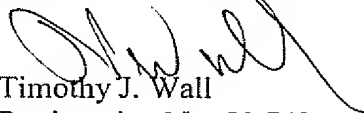
disclose or suggest the recitations of Claim 2. For at least these reasons, Claim 2 is separately patentable over Sobkow and Francis.

In rejecting Claim 4, the Office Action relies on the statement of rejection discussed above regarding Claim 2. In this regard, Claim 4 is separately patentable over Sobkow and Francis for at least similar reasons.

**Conclusion**

As all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims and passing of the application to issue in due course. Applicants urge the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (919) 854-1400 to resolve any remaining formal issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 14, 2007.

  
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